

NOTE ON SUMERIA DIPOTAMICA, Tams.*With a Description of the Female.*

By E. P. WILTSHIRE, F.R.E.S.

NOTE ON SUMERIA DIPOTAMICA, Tams, with a Description of the Female.

Until the life-history of this recently described Notodontid is known, one cannot say to which of the above divisions of the Mesopotamian fauna it pertains, though, to judge from its facies and the situations in which I have taken it, it may well prove to be a reed-feeder. It seems to be most frequent in the delta of the Euphrates and Tigris, but it also occurs up to some height in the Zagros range. In 1938 I captured a female at Basra (25.V.) and a male at Khorramshahr (Mohammerah) (2.X), both to light near the river. I also believe it occurs at Bagdad. Since no description of the female was published by Mr Tams, I append one hereto:

Sumeria dipotamica, Tams (*Proc. R. Ent. Soc. Lond.* (B) 1938).

♀ Neallotype; Basra, 25.V.1938, in coll. m.

Antenna: Much more lightly bipectinated than ♂.

Expanse: 54 mm., i.e., considerably larger than ♂.

In other respects, similar to the ♂.

N.B.—The autumnal brood ♂ taken by me at Khorramshahr was only 40 mm. in expanse.

WEESEN AND PONTRESINA.

By H. G. HARRIS, M.D., and E. SCOTT, D.M.

(With Plate).

Many papers have been contributed to the *Entomologist's Record* in the past, dealing with the Engadine, so this is only a short account concerning this district for a period of three weeks in July 1938.

Amongst the papers consulted is a lengthy account by Mr B. C. S. Warren, "Six Weeks among the Butterflies of Switzerland," *Ent. Rec.*, Vol. XXXV, and one by Mr P. Haig Thomas, "The More Local Butterflies of Switzerland," *Ent. Rec.*, Vol. XXXIX; and we must not omit Mr H. J. Turner's long paper on St Moritz with numerous references to Pontresina, *Ent. Rec.*, Vols. XXVII and XXVIII.

Our party consisted of Dr and Mrs E. Scott and myself, and when we reached Pontresina we found Mr and Mrs B. C. S. Warren already installed at the Hotel Collina, together with their youthful daughter, whose knowledge of entomological terms was wonderful. We were much indebted to Mr Warren for his previous experience of the best localities and for help in many ways.

Leaving London on July 1st, we stopped for three nights at Weesen on Lake Walensee to obtain specimens of *Lycaena euphemus* and *L. arcas*. The first two days were hopeless for collecting owing to continuous rain, but on our last morning the sun shone brilliantly and we were able to obtain a satisfactory number of *L. euphemus* on the marsh sur-



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Photo. E. Scott, M.D.

ROSEG VALLEY. Locality for *B. thore* and *B. maturna*.

SCHAFBERG. Locality for *E. flavofasciata*.

rounding the Lake wherever the food plant *Sanguisorba* grew. *L. arcas* was also taken but not so common as *L. euphemus*. Dr Scott found an aberration of *Melanargia* (*Satyrus*) *galathea* with the white ocelli on the posterior side of the lower wings devoid of the usual black points.

Aphantopus (*Hipparchia*) *hyperantus* was just emerging but very little else. A colony of *Vanessa io* was found feeding on wild hop. A few were taken, which later pupated, and emerged in August. We did not find the railway banks as productive for *L. euphemus* as the marsh itself.

On 4th July we left for Pontresina and stayed there till 22nd July. We had excellent weather on the whole, but the temperature was quite moderate till the last few days.

PONTRESINA (5910 feet) differs from most Alpine resorts in being open on all sides for walks. The following districts were explored for collecting purposes:—

1. THE ROSEG VALLEY.—This was frequently visited, as here were to be found *Melitaea maturna*, var. *wolfensbergeri*, and also *Brenthis thore*, both of which were secured in fair numbers, but a suitable locality had to be searched for in each case.

B. thore was especially fond of settling on the flowers of wild geranium, which grew near streams. Dr Scott tried to find evidence of its food plant but was unsuccessful. Wheeler's "Butterflies of Switzerland" states that the food plant is unknown. Seitz states that it can be reared on violet. [See *Ent. Record*, XV, 301; XVI, 236; XVII, 78; XVIII, 69.—HY. J. T.]

I was here lucky in finding a nice male specimen of *Brenthis pales* with both upper wings marked heavily with black.

Pieris napi, f. *bryoniae*, was just going over and females were difficult to obtain in good condition.

The Roseg Valley leads to the Tschierva glacier, where Mr Warren in 1922 discovered *Erebia flavofasciata*. I was unable to make the excursion personally, as it is an arduous climb, but he kindly brought me back some specimens of this interesting butterfly. They were flying on ground above the glacier in good numbers.

2. THE SCHAFBERG (8965 feet). Ascended by zigzag paths or else by cable railway from Punt Muraigl, a detour resulting in an hour's walk. This is a well known locality for *Erebia flavofasciata* and we had hoped to obtain a good series, but our united efforts only succeeded in obtaining two specimens after the several excursions we made here for this purpose. I was, however, told by a French collector that it was useless looking for it, as in 1937 a number of Italians had practically wiped them all out.

Erebia epiphron was not uncommon and so also *Coenonympha satyrion*, with the white band on the underside of the lower wings reminding one of the similar band in *E. flavofasciata*, and one could not help wondering whether in by-gone ages a hybrid had resulted from these two insects.

As regards the almost complete absence of *E. flavofasciata*, this year some observers consider that it is only common in alternate years as *E. arete* is supposed to be.